

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 07641 172200Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 172059Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7641

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB, PINT

SUBJECT: CREATION OF NATIONAL LABOR COORDINATION COMMITTEE DECREED

REF: SANTIAGO A) 2325 AND B) 5256

1. SUMMARY: DECREE PUBLISHED DEC 12 CREATES NATIONAL LABOR COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND SUBORDINATE COMMITTEES IN EACH PROVINCE. OFFICERS OF UNIONS AND FEDERATIONS WILL EXCLUSIVELY COMPRISE NATIONAL COMMITTEE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF LABOR MINISTER, WHILE SINGLE MILITARY OR CARABINERO OFFICER WILL BE NAMED TO PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES. PREVIOUS SYSTEM OF OFFICERS OF LABOR ADVISORS TO BE ABOLISHED. COMMITTEES WILL RECOMMEND TO LABOR MINISTER SOLUTIONS TO LABOR PROBLEMS. DECREE PROVIDES MECHANISM FOR CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN CHILEAN LABOR RELATIONS, AND INITIAL REACTION OF TOP LABOR LEADERS HAS BEEN POSITIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITHOUT PRIOR PUBLICITY, OFFICIAL GAZETTE (DIARIO OFICIAL) DEC 12 PUBLISHED DECREE NO. 852 CREATING NATIONAL LABOR COORDINATION COMMITTEE (COMITE NACIONAL DE COORDINACION LABORAL) AS WELL AS SIMILAR BUT SUBORDINATE BODIES IN EACH PROVINCE. PROLOGUE OF DECREE STATES IN PART: "IT IS NECESSARY TO CENTRALIZE WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF LABOR KNOWLEDGE OF ALL LABOR

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PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 07641 172200Z

MATTERS." SUMMARY FOLLOWS:

ART. 1: CREATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN SANTIAGO AND PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES IN CAPITALS OF EACH PROVINCE.

ART. 2: NATIONAL COMMITTEE WILL BE COMPOSED OF OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATIONS, FEDERATIONS AND UNIONS OF WORKERS AND CHAIRED BY LABOR MINISTER.

ART. 3: PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES COMPOSED OF UNION AND FEDERATION OFFICERS, ONE ACTIVE OFFICER OF ARMED FORCES OR CARABINEROS, AND CHAIRD BY RANKING OFFICIAL FROM OFFICE OF LABOR INSPECTOR.

ART. 4: PROVINCIAL COMMITTEES WILL ANALYZE LABOR PROBLEMS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE "ZONES" AND PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO LABOR MINISTER.

ART. 5: COMMITTEES WILL MEET NO MORE THAN TWO NOR LESS THAN ONE TIME EACH MONTH.

ART. 6: "THE GOVERNMENT" WILL CONSULT WORKERS THROUGH THE COMMITTEES.

ART. 7: PROVINCIAL LABOR INSPECTORS WILL KEEP THEIR RESPECTIVE PROVINCIAL MILITARY GOVERNORS (INTENDENTE) INFORMED OF COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES.

ART. 8: DECREE NO. 314 OF APRIL 30, 1974, WHICH CREATED PROVINCIAL OFFICES OF LABOR ADVISORS (REF A, PARA 5), IS ANNULLED AND SAID OFFICES ABOLISHED.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED FOR SOME TIME THAT SOME SUCH ACTION WAS IN THE MILL, DECREE CAME AS WELCOME SUPRISE TO A NUMBER OF NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS. MOST LEADERS HAVE VIEWED LABOR ADVISORS OFFICES AS DISMAL FAILURES, AS NEW MEASURE SEEMS TO RECOGNIZE. CONCEPCION AND VALPARAISO EXAMPLES HAVE BEEN TARGET OF PARTICULAR CRITICISM AS HAVING BEEN MANNED BY "LACKIES" (MUNECAS) OF GOC.

4. EDUARDO RIOS, PRES OF NATIONAL UNION COUNCIL (CS) AND OF MARITIME WORKERS CONFED (COMACH) CALLEW ON LABATT HOUR AFTER " IARIO OFICIAL" WAS DISTRIBUTED TO PRESENT COPY OF WHAT HE TERMED "MOST IMPORTANT VICTORY OF ORGANIZED LABOR SINCE SEPT 11, 1973". HE CLAIMED DECREE IS RESULT OF LONG, QUITE, BUT PERSISTENT CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SANTIA 07641 172200Z

PRESSURE OF CS LEADERS (REF B) ON GOC. HE QULAIFIED "VICTORY" BY NOTING DECREE REPRESENTS NO RETURN TO SYSTEM OF FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, BUT BELIEVES THAT NEW STRUCTURE WILL ALLOW "LEGITIMATE LEADERS OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE DISLOGUE WITH GOC." RIOS WAS ALSO PLEASED THAT DECREE MADE NO MENTION OF MINISTRY OF INTERIOR IN TEXT (IT WAS SIGNED BY THIS MINISTER IN ADDITHION TO LABOR MINISTER), AND

BELIEVES DECREE WILL IN EFFECT CENTRALIZE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LABOR AFFAIRS IN LABOR MINISTRY. RIOS CLAIMS EXECUTIVE BOARD OF CS WILL SOON BE NAMED AS MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

5. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH MANY OF RIOS' ASSUMPTIONS. DECREE IS NO MODEL FOR TRADE UNIONS ELSEWHERE BUT OFFERS MECHANISM FOR CONSIDERABLE LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE UNION RELATIONS IN CHILE. IF RIOS CLAIMS ARE BORNE OUT, DECREE IMPLIES THAT GOC HAS OFFERED A RESERVED RECOGNITION OF "COMISION SINDICAL". (CS) AS OFFICIAL VOICE OF CHILEAN LABOR. THIS SINGLE ENTITY THROUGH WHICH CHILEAN LABOR CAN PRESENT ISTS POSITIONS SHOULD BE VERY USEFUL TO LABOR AND POSSIBLY TO THE GOC. FOR MORE THAN A YEAR GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEALING WITH A MYRIAD OF LABOR LEADERS ON A WIDE VARIETY OF LOCAL PROBLEMS, AND FOR MOST PART HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET CLEAR VIEW OF MAJOR DESIRES OF WORKERS.

6. GOC PROBABLY HOPES TO BRING SOME ORDER TO THE GENERAL LABOR SITUATION THROUGH THIS NEW COMMITTEE. GOC ALSO MAY VISUALIZE NEW SYSTEM AS AN INTERIM SUBSTITUTE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, OR PERHAPS AS A PERMANENT ONE IF IT WORKS.

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